

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9822

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK: KIM IL-SUNG VISIT TO PEKING

1. DURING APRIL 30 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PARK I REVIEWED INITIAL IMPRESSIONS REGARDING KIM IL-SUNG'S VISIT TO PEKING. I POINTED OUT COMMUNIQUE APPEARED RELATIVELY MODERATE IN TONE WITH ROUTINE TREATMENT OF "PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION" AND AVOIDANCE OF ANY DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS AND KOREA. I SAID THAT WE WERE STILL ANALYZING RESULTS OF VISIT AND IT WAS PROBABLY TOO EARLY TO REACH ANY FINAL CONCLUSIONS.

2. PARK AGREED WITH THESE CONCLUSIONS BUT SPECULATED THAT KIM IL-SUNG IN FACT MAY NOT HAVE SOUGHT DIRECT CHINESE SUPPORT FOR MILITARY ADVENTURES SINCE THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR PEKING TO PROVIDE. INSTEAD KIM IL-SUNG MIGHT HAVE ASKED FOR CHINESE AGREEMENT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN ROK AND TO SUPPORT NORTH KOREA POLITICALLY AND DIPLOMATICALLY. ONCE SURPRISE ATTACK ACCOMPLISHED INITIAL CONTROL OF SEOUL AND NORTHERN PART OF ROK. CHINESE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT CEASEFIRE CALL AND SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN TO PROVIDE ARMS AND GROUND TROOPS. PARK THOUGHT THAT PRC WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SAY NO TO SUCH A REQUEST.

3. I POINTED OUT THAT WE DOUBTED THAT PEKING DESIRES ANY
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TYPE OF DIRECT MILITARY CONFLICT WITH US AT THIS TIME, SINCE

NORTH KOREAN ATTACK WOULD INVOLVE US FORCES, AND THAT PEKING COMMUNIQUE EMPHASIS SEEMED TO BE PLACED UPON FIRST SECURING US WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA. PARK AGREED AND STATED THAT PERHAPS KIM IL-SUNG MIGHT NOT ATTACK RIGHT AWAY AND WOULD WAIT FOR US WITHDRAWAL, BUT THEN HE WOULD TRY TO SOW CONFUSION IN THE REAR AREA BEFORE LAUNCHING HIS ATTACK. IN ANY EVENT, HE CONCLUDED THAT EXTREME VIGILANCE IS NECESSARY SINCE COMMUNISTS' PLANS DIFFICULT TO DISCERN.

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